THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d) Since 1985-86, capital cost of 34 projects of Coal India Ltd. and 2 Lignite mines of Neyveli Lignite Corporation approved by Government have escalated by more than 20% of the sanctioned cost. Total sanctioned cost of these 36 projects is Rs. 4,738.60 crores and their revised cost is estimated to be about Rs. 8,630.00 crores. Since the projects are sanctioned by Government on the basis of price level prevailing in the year of sanction, some amount of price escalation is inevitable.

With a view to streamling the procedures for formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects in the coal sector, Ministry of Coal had set up a Committee to examine all related aspects of formulation and implementation of coal projects. Based on the suggestions made by the Committee, guidelines have been issued to all the coal companies in regard to improvement in the present practices of exploration, planning, appraisal, implementation and monitoring of coal projects.

With regard to revision of cost estimates of projects, Government have issued guidlines for appropriate assessment of cost increases due to: a) increase in statutory levies; b) exchange rate variation; and c) price escalation within the originally approved time cycle. As per revised guidelines, these cost increases will be approved by the Adminsitrative Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Capacity utilisation of CIL and SCCL

3021. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the capacity utilisation of various companies of CIL and SCCl during the year 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to increase the capacity utilisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) The capacity utilisation as against the mine capacity assessed by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) of various companies of CIL, during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 had been as given below:—

Company	1989-90 (% utilisation)	1990-91 (% utilisation)	1991-92 (% utilisation)
ECL	85.48	72.00	83.00
BCCL	84.45	75.00	77.00
CCL	90.00	95.00	93.00
NCL	85.10	93.00	94.00
WCL	91.24	83.00	87.00
SECL	99.32	105.00	95.00
Total CIL (including NHC)	90.26	89.00	89.00

The capacity utilisation reported by SCCL during these years are:—

SCCL 81.31% 77.33% 89.63%

Low capacity utilisation in BCCL and ECL areas has been mainly due to inadequate and erratic power supply in these companies. Besides ensuring better coordination between the power supply companies and the coal companies, one 20 MW coal based captive power station has been installed in Eastern Coalfield Ltd. Two more captive power stations of 20 MW capacity each are in final stages of commissioning in BCCL and CCL areas.